

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), XG, UR, SOPN

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORT, MORNING, MAY 19, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 1

SUMMARY: TWO STORIES COME FROM HAK VISIT TO VIENNA, THE UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH GROMYKO AND THE POSSIBLE USE OF B-52S DURING THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. OF THE MEETINGS, THE MAIN TOPIC OF INTEREST IS SALT AND MIRVS AND VERIFICATION THEREOF. THE U.S. SIDE IS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO COMPROMISE TO REACH SOLUTION.END SUMMARY

1. AP - FREED CITES THE SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING HAK "IS WILLING TO CONSIDER A COMPROMISE OF ONE OF THE KEY U.S. POSITIONS " IN SALT VERIFICATION PROCEDURES IN HOPES OF GETTING A TREATY BY THE SUMMIT NEXT FALL. THE OFFICIAL SAID THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT MOSCOW HAS NEW IDEAS ON VERIFICATION. HAK AND GROMYKO WILL NOT DISCUSS THE ME AND GENEVA UNTIL TUESDAY, SAID THE OFFICIAL, WHO CONTINUED THAT HAK CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENTS UNTIL AFTER FORD MEETS SADAT AND RABIN.

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2. UPI - GROWALD REPORTS HAK "GOING THROUGH THE SOCIAL

NICETIES WITH HIS AUSTRIAN HOSTS" BEFORE MEETING WITH

GROMYKO AT TEA-TIME. GROMYKO WAS EXPECTED TO AVOID INDO-CHINA AND TALK ABOUT THE ME, LOOKING TO SEE IF U.S. SUPPORTS RESUMPTION OF GENEVA TALKS. GROMYKO ARRIVAL STATEMENT CITED.

3. WASHPOST - MARDER SAYS TALKS TO FOCUS OF ARMS LIMITS, EXPLORING A COMPROMISE IN VERIFICATION TO BREAK THE SALT DEADLOCK. ANY MISSILE TESTED WITH MIRV COUNTS AS A MIRV UNDER THE 1,320 CEILING, WHICH WAS OLD U.S. POSITION, TO BE SOFTENED IF SPECIFIC MISSILES CAN BE VERIFIED SINGLE OR MULTIPLE. HAK AND GROMYKO EXPECTED TO WORK FOR POLITICAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL, COMPROMISE.

TUESDAY TALKS WILL TURN TO ME, WITH SOVIET CALL FOR NEW GENEVA TALKS AGAINST U.S. DESIRE TO WAIT UNTIL FORD HAS SEEN SADAT AND RABIN.

THIRDLY, HAK COUNTING ON SENATE ACTION ON TURKISH AID CUTOFF TO HELP HIM WOO TURKS DIPLOMATICALLY.

4. WALL STREET JOURNAL - MILLER SAYS U.S. OPTIMISTIC AT GETTING SALT FLOWING AGAIN. DESPIITE DIFFERENCES ON KEY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE OPTIMISTIC. OFFICIALS ASSERT U.S. WON'T BUDGE FROM POSITION, BUT RUSSIANS MAY PROPOSE A NEW VERIFICATION PLAN LEADING TO COMPROMISE. DETAILED TECHNICAL TALKS WOULD RESUME NEXT MONTH, WITH FINAL AGREEMENT IN TIME FOR THE SUMMIT IN THE FALL. ON THE ME, OFFICIALS INDICATE "THEY WILL TRY TO AVOID ANY MOVE THAT WOULD DRAW THE SOVIETS MORE DEEPLY INTO ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES." HAK HOPES SOVIETS WILL LET HIM RESTART NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE GENEVA, WHICH THEY FAVOR PUBLICALLY. GENERALLY, HAK-GROMYKO TALKS WILL LOOK FOR ANY CHANGE IN SOVIET ATTITUDE ON DETENTE, IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA AND RECENT VERBAL BARBS. OFFICIALS BELIEVE SALT TALKS HAVE THEIR OWN MOMENTUM, DUE TO THEIR IMPETUS FROM LEADERS AT VLADIVOSTOK, AND THUS WILL KEEP DETENTE ALIVE.

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5. KALB - CBS RADIO - (FROM VIENNA): A GRIM FACED GROMYKO FLEW INTO VIENNA TODAY AND ... READ A PREPARED STATEMENT SAYING THAT HE HAD COME TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND VIEWS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. A REPORTER THEN ASKED HIS OPINION ABOUT THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE ME. NO QUESTIONS, GROMYKO RESPONDED. THEN HE PROCEEDED THROUGH HEAVY

SECURITY TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY WHERE HE BEGAN PREPARATIONS
FOR HIS MEETING LATER TODAY WITH HAK. THE SECRETARY
WAS NOT AT THE AIRPORT, HE TOOK HIS WIFE NANCY TO SEE A

PERFORMANCE AT THE SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL, FAMOUS FOR
MORE THAN 400 YEARS. THE KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING
FOCUSSES ON THREE MAIN THEMES: BREAKING THE DEADLOCK
ON STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS -- HAK SEEMS TO BE
PREPARED FOR A COMPROMISE ON THE KEY OBSTACLE OF VERI-
FICATION, THE ME -- ANOTHER MAJOR THEME, AND FINALLY THE
CONVENING OF THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE. HANGING
OVER THESE TALKS IS A QUESTION, HOW MUCH SOVIET-AMERICAN
DETENTE HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY RECENT AMERICAN SET-BACKS IN
INDOCHINA AND BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY ACTIONS
IN THE MAYAGUEZ EPISODE OF LAST WEEK, IN WHICH
FOR A TIME THE U.S. CONSIDERED USING THE B-52
STRATEGIC BOMBER.

6. KOPPEL - ABC RADIO - (FROM VIENNA): SECRETARY
KISSINGER IS SPENDING AN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY RELAXING
DAY ATTENDING A PERFORMANCE AT THE SPANISH RIDING SCHOOL
HERE IN VIENNA THIS MORNING THEN GOING TO SEE THE
AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BEFORE TAKING WIFE NANCY TO A PRIVATE
LUNCH. IT IS NOT UNTIL LATE THIS AFTERNOON THAT HAK
MEETS WITH SOVIET FM GROMYKO WHO ARRIVED HERE IN VIENNA
THIS MORNING. THE PRIMARY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION TODAY
ARE EXPECTED TO BE THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE
WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD FORMALIZE THE POST WWII DIVISION
OF EUROPE, THAT IS SOMETHING THE SOVIET'S WANT BADLY,
AND THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, WHICH ARE
CURRENTLY STALLED AND WHICH HAK HOPES TO GET MOVING
AGAIN IN HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO.

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7. REUTERS - NELSON LEADS WITH COMING TALKS ON SALT,
CITING U.S. OFFICIALS SAYING THE SS-18 MISSILE IS
"HORRENDOUS", SINCE IT CAN CARRY EITHER SINGLE OR MULTIPLE
WARHEADS. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED,
THOUGH THERE WILL NOT BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN VIENNA.
IF ALL GOES WELL, GENEVA TALKS RESUMING JUNE 2 WILL
PRODUCE SALT-II AGREEMENT WHICH FORD AND BREZHNEV CAN
SIGN THIS FALL.

OTHER ITEMS ON VIENNA AGENDA INCLUDE CSCE AND GENEVA
CONFERENCE ON ME. OFFICIALS SAY DRAMATIC MOVEMENT
IS UNLIKELY IN BOTH CASES.

8. KALB, CBS-TV, FROM VIENNA: THE U.S. CONSIDERED
USING THE B-52 STRATEGIC BOMBER AGAINST THE CAMBODIAN

MAINLAND DURING THE MAYAGUEZ EPISODE. A TOP AMERICAN OFFICIAL WHO SPOKE UNDER BACKGROUND RULES WHICH FORBID IDENTIFYING HIM, ADMITTED THAT THE B-52 WAS ONE LIVE OPTION UP UNTIL THE TIME LAST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON WHEN THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CORAL SEA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE

WITH TACTICAL JET FIGHTERS. THEN THE B-52 OPTION WAS SHELVED AND THE FIGHTERS WENT INTO ACTION. THE NSC,

WHICH FUNCTIONS UNDER HAK'S DIRECTION, ADVANCED THE B-52 OPTION TO PRESIDENT FORD AND IT WAS APPARENTLY CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY. IT IS CLEAR FROM A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EVENTS THAT ONCE THE MAYAGUEZ WAS CAPTURED THE ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWED A TWO-TRACK APPROACH, MAKING A DIPLOMATIC APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE SHIP AND THE CREW, WHICH NO ONE APPARENTLY THOUGHT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, AND AT THE SAME TIME GRADUALLY ESCALATING AMERICAN MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST CAMBODIA. THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED IT HAD TO ACT BY WEDNESDAY IN ORDER TO FORESTALL A LENGTHY BARGAINING SESSION WITH THE CAMBODIANS, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE U.S. COULD ACT DECISIVELY IN A CRISIS TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS, A POINT HAK MAY underscore today and tomorrow in his talks with SOVIET FM GROMYKO.

9. NYTIMES - GELB CITES FLYING SENIOR OFFICIALS SAYING
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THAT USE OF B52S IN MAYAGUEZ INCIDENTS WAS CONSIDERED. NSC DECIDED FROM MILITARY ACTION HAD TO BE TAKEN BY WEDNESDAY BOMBERS WOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO HIT CAMBODIAN MAINLAND, BUT ARRIVAL OF CORAL SEA MADE THAT OPTION UNNECESSARY.

ON SALT, REPORTERS WERE TOLD U.S. IS CONSIDERING A COMPROMISE ON VERIFICATION, THOUGH NO BREAKTHROUGH IS EXPECTED IN VIENNA SINCE GR MYKO DOES NOT SPEAK ON NUCLEAR ARMS. ON THE ME, DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FORD SEES SADAT AND RABIN.

U.S. STANCE ON CSCE RELAXED, AS MOSCOW PRESSED FOR JULY SUMMIT TO LEGITIMIZE BOUNDARIES AND ALLIES OF U.S. WANTED TO END THE CONFERENCE.

"THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ... PARLEY WAS DESCRIBED AS A STOCK-TAKING OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS ... (AND) COMES AT A TIME WHEN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN HINTING PUBLICLY AT A SHIFT IN PUBLIC PRIORITIES -- AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN ... OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT AMERICAN ALLIANCES WILL BE GIVEN A GREATER RELATIVE EMPHASIS, WHILE

THE ADMINISTRATION AVOIDS APPEARING TOO LENIENT IN A RANGE OF NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON WITH MOSCOW." ONE HAK AIDE EXPLAINED THIS IS A PRACTICAL SHIFT TO COMPENSATE FOR "THE INDOCHINA FAILURE", NOT A STRATEGIC CHANGE. OFFICIALS SAY MOSCOW IS STILL FIRMLY COMMITTED TO DETENTE.

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